

March 4, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Opposition HB 1200 Environment – Permit Applications – Environmental Justice Screening

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 1200 Environment – Permit Applications – Environmental Justice Screening**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require that any permit application be submitted with and “Environmental Justice Score” to the Department of the Environment. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. This score is relatively useless for the purposes of determining the environmental impact of a new project because it cannot take into account future development and how that will affect the Environmental Justice Score. Additionally, the scoring tool is based on data which may be out of date and thus issuing falsely low scores. New development could even potentially help change the EJ scores in a positive direction and thus low initial scores should not be used as an excuse to deny permits.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee